

KNARESBOROUGH
URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.



MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT,

FOR THE
Year ending December 31st,
1895.

KNARESBOROUGH :
PARR, PRINTER, BOOKSELLER, AND STATIONER, MARKET PLACE,
1896.


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KNARESBOROUGH
Urban : District : Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report

For the Year ending December 31st, 1895.

GENTLEMEN,

I have now the honour to lay before you a Report upon the Sanitary condition, Death-rate, and General Health of your District, during the year 1895.

**PART I.—Relating to Deaths, Sickness
and Births.**

During the year the total number of Deaths registered was 121, as against 106 last year, being an increase of 15. But of these 121, 18 occurred in the Workhouse, and 13 in the Babies Home. On subtracting these, we get a total for your District proper of 90, as against 91 last year. This gives a death-rate per 1,000 of the population of 19·3.

The following Tables compare the Deaths and Death-rates, including and excluding the Workhouse and Babies Home :—

EXCLUDING WORKHOUSE, &c. INCLUDING WORKHOUSE, &c.

1895.....	90.....	121
1894.....	91.....	106
1893.....	106.....	137

Rate per 1,000 of Population :—

1895.....	19·3.....	26·02
1894.....	19·5.....	22·8
1893.....	22·8.....	29·4

Thus we see that in the District proper we have a reduction though a very slight one, upon the Death-rate of last year, and a very decided reduction upon that of the year before.

The increase in the total death-rate has been caused by the deaths in the Babies Home, which were due to the Insanitary condition of the Drains, as the health of the Infants has been good, and the death-rate “*nil*,” since the drains were altered.

The following Tables show (1) the number of deaths at different ages; (2) the number of deaths due to preventable causes, such as infectious diseases, and this Table may be studied with satisfaction; (3) the deaths from non-preventable causes.

TABLE I.

The ages at which deaths occurred :—

Deaths under 1 year.....	36
„ over 1 year and under 5 years ...	8
„ „ 5 years „ 15 „ ...	2
„ „ 15 „ „ 25 „ ...	7
„ „ 25 „ „ 65 „ ...	35
„ „ 65 years and upwards	33
Total.....	121

29 per cent of the total deaths were Infants under one year of age. This is a larger mortality than ought to occur in a country town, where few, if any of the mothers work in mills. Deducting the deaths at the Babies Home (13), we have 23 deaths, or 21 per cent. This is still too large, and I fear is due to want of knowledge and attention on the part of the mothers in the feeding and general care of infants. The administration of bread-pops to infants before dentition has commenced being a common cause here, as in other towns, of the ill-health and death during dentition of many infants.

TABLE II.

Deaths attributable to insanitary conditions, or infectious diseases, with a comparison of two previous years.

	1895.		1894.		1893.
Small-pox.....	0	...	0	...	2
Scarlatina.....	0	...	0	...	0
Diphtheria	1	...	1	...	0
Membranous Croup	0	...	1	...	0
Whooping Cough ...	1	...	2	...	2
Typhus Fever.....	0	...	0	...	0
Enteric Fever.....	0	...	0	...	0
Measles	0	...	1	...	0
Diarrhœa.....	17	...	1	...	9
Erysipelas	0	...	0	...	0
Influenza	2	...	0	...	0

Seventeen deaths in 1895 were ascribed to Diarrhœa, but 13 of these occurred in the Babies Home, leaving only 4 for your district proper.

TABLE III.

Shewing deaths from non-preventable causes,* also with
a comparison of two previous years:—

	1895.		1894.		1893.
Phthisis.....	16	...	10	...	16
Pneumonia & Bronchitis	19	...	14	...	22
Heart Disease	8	...	12	...	8
Diseases of Kidneys ...	2	...	2	...	0
„ „ Liver.....	1	...	2	...	0
„ „ Brain and Nervous System }	12	...	14	...	57
Senile Decay'	12	...	11	...	13
Other Diseases.....	27	...	31	...	25
Injuries	2	...	2	...	2

The total number of Births registered during the year is 150, as against 132 in 1894. This gives a birth-rate per 1,000 per annum of 32·2. Of these 150 Births, 72 were males, and 78 females.

PART II.—An Account of the Sanitary Work done.

Printed Notices for abatement of Nuisances issued...	39
New Ash-pits to Water Closets	6
„ Water Closets	25
„ Privy Ash-pits	6
„ Privies.....	11
W.C's put into Sanitary condition	4

Privies and Ash-pits put into Sanitary condition.....	3
New Drains.....	16
Sink Pipes cut off	17
Convictions against Common Lodging-house keepers	1
New Trough Closets	2
Houses put into Sanitary condition	5
Tons of Night-soil removed	1037
Printed Notices out-standing and not complied with on 31st December, 1895	19

Towards the end of the year the work of constructing a new tank for the further storage of water was commenced.

The town has been regularly and at times specially inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and myself; and from time to time we have reported to you upon such nuisances as we came across.

The weekly markets have been regularly inspected and no fault found with the articles exposed for sale.

The slaughter houses have been regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

The common lodging houses have also been regularly inspected and no case of infectious disease has occurred in any of them.

In a number of cases in which ashpits existed, which could only be emptied by carrying the contents through the house, you have ordered the substitution of water closets.

PART III.—General Health of the Town.

The general health of the town has been good.

Reference to Table II. shows a conspicuous absence of the more serious insanitary and infectious diseases. The deaths from Diarrhœa are considerably in excess of previous years, but this is due to the mortality at the Babies Home from drain poisoning, as elsewhere in the town Diarrhœa was not specially prevalent or fatal.

Although two deaths have been ascribed to Influenza as against none in 1894 and 1893, the disease has not really been as prevalent as in those years. Probably many of the deaths in those years ascribed to Lung Complaints ought primarily to have been attributed to Influenza. In 1895 the disease was rather sporadic than epidemic.

During the latter part of the year the Sanitary Committee have been devoting attention to the reducing in size and number the very large ashpits, also the improving of those not concreted and that sink below the surrounding surface. I would venture to recommend that the work be continued, and that in future no ashpits be allowed that will hold such enormous accumulations as have in several cases been brought before the Committee's notice.

I append certain tables supplied by the Local Government Board and County Council and shall forward copies of this report to both those bodies.

I am, Gentleman,

Your obedient Servant,

IAN D. MACKAY, B.A., M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

To

THE KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

